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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2860.721-01

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By: _____

Rebecca M. Whitelock

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Shogo YAMAMOTO et al.)	Group Art Unit: 2873
)	
Application No.: 10/685,464)	Examiner: David N. SPECTOR
)	
Filed: October 16, 2003)	Confirmation No. 5446
)	
For: MOLDED OPTICAL COMPONENT,)	
HANDLING METHOD, AND)	
ASSEMBLY METHOD (<i>as amended</i>))	
)	

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action dated August 4, 2004, that the above identified application contained Allowable Subject Matter and for identifying reasons for allowance. Applicants submit these comments to clarify the scope of the present claims, in light of the Examiner's stated Reasons for Allowance.

Applicants agree that the *written description* discloses at least "means [and] methods for handling small molded optical components . . . wherein some of the

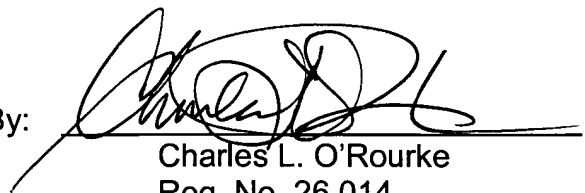
artifacts of the molding processes which are typically attached to molded optical components upon release/removal from the mold are used to handle the aforesaid components for assembly and/or finishing tasks." August 4, 2004 Office Action, page 3. Applicants point out that the *claims at issue* do not recite any limitation on the size of the molded optical component or parts thereof. In a teleconference with Applicants' representatives on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, the Examiner indicated that his comment on the size of the molded optical components, "(e.g. on the order of a millimeter)," in the Statements on Reasons for Allowance in the Office Action of August 4, 2004, was merely exemplary and was not meant to limit the claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter these comments and charge any required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER,
L.L.P.

Dated: December 7, 2004

By:


Charles L. O'Rourke
Reg. No. 26,014